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## McCain, Davis, and Waxman Announce Introduction of 'Clean Sports Act of 2005'

*Legislation Sets Uniform Testing Standards and Stringent Penalties for Performance-Enhancing Drugs*

Washington D.C. – Senator McCain, Congressman Davis and Congressman Waxman today announced the introduction of the “Clean Sports Act of 2005.” The legislation is designed to strengthen the testing procedures and toughen penalties for the use of performance-enhancing drugs in the four major American sports: Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League. The Clean Sports Act establishes strict, uniform standards for the prohibition of performance-enhancing drugs – including steroids and amphetamines.

Senator McCain stated, “Over a year ago, I said publicly that the failure of professional sports – and in particular Major League Baseball – to commit to addressing the issue of doping straight on and immediately would motivate Congress to search for legislative remedies.

“Despite my clear warning and the significant attention that I and others in Congress have given to this stain on professional sports, baseball and other professional leagues have refused to do the right thing. By introducing this bill, I am once again asking the leagues to shore up the integrity to professional sports. I am asking the leagues to realize that what is at stake here is not the sanctity of collective bargaining agreements, but rather the health and safety of America’s children. Like it or not, our nation’s kids look to professional athletes as role models and take cues from their actions, both good and bad.

“I remain hopeful that professional sports will reform their drug testing policies on their own – a modest proposal in the eyes of reasonable people. However, the introduction of this bill demonstrates the continued seriousness with which Congress views this issue. It should be seen as a renewed invitation to the leagues to clean up their sports on their own without government interference.”

Congressman Davis said, “Steroid use is a national public health crisis. This legislation is aimed at not only getting rid of performance enhancing drugs on the professional level, but also sends a message loud and clear to the young people of America: Steroids are illegal. Steroids are dangerous. They can be deadly. And there is no place for them in our sports leagues or our school grounds.”

Congressman Waxman added, “There is an absolute correlation between the culture of steroids in the major league clubhouse and the culture of steroids in high school gyms. If

we can remove steroids from the clubhouse, we will fix the problems in school locker rooms.”

The legislation also sets minimum penalties of two-year ban for the first violation and a lifetime ban for the second – the same as Olympic standards. It guarantees due process rights for players who test positive. It permits the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to require additional professional sports leagues and/or NCAA Division I or II sports to comply with the legislation. And it establishes a Commission to report on the use of performance-enhancing drugs in high school and college athletics, and to provide recommendations for reducing their use.